

U.S. Public Health Service
Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee
Minutes for Meeting No. 123, September 20, 2000, Cincinnati, OH

1. Call to order - CAPT Piacitelli

The Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee (EHOPAC) meeting (123) was called to order by Chairperson CAPT Piacitelli at 8:45 a.m. on September 20, 2000. The meeting was held in Cincinnati, Ohio at the NIOSH Alice Hamilton Laboratory, located at 5555 Ridge Avenue.

ATTENDANCE OF EHOPAC MEMBERSHIP & MEMBER AFFILIATION

CDR Clint Chamberlin, FDA - via conference call
CAPT Richard Durrett, NPS - Absent
CDR Bill Daniels, CDC - Absent
LCDR Calvin Edwards, FDA - Absent
LCDR Lisa Flynn, NIH - Absent
LT Vincent Garcia, IHS - Present
CDR Michael Herring, USCG/HRSA - Absent
Ms. Glenda Lewis, FDA - Absent
LCDR Kevin Meeks, IHS - Absent
LCDR Susan Muza, ATSDR - Present
CAPT Laurie Piacitelli, CDC - Present
LCDR Rhonda Sears, EPA - Present
CAPT Craig Shepherd, IHS - Present
CDR Jeff Smith, IHS - Absent
LCDR Kelly Taylor, IHS - Absent
LCDR Donald Williams, IHS - Present

ATTENDANCE OF EX-OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP & MEMBER AFFILIATION

CAPT Thomas E. Crow, IHS, Environmental Health Chief Professional Officer - Present
CAPT Bruce R. Chelikowsky, IHS, National Environmental Health Association and
Commissioned Officers Association - Absent
CAPT Gary Noonan, CDC, American Academy of Sanitarians Representative - Present
CDR Doris Ravenell-Brown, Staffing Officer, DCP - Absent

GUESTS

CDR Sarath Seneviratne, BHR, HRSA
CAPT Rick Driscoll, CDC
CDR Alan Echt, CDC
LT Ron Hall, CDC

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LT Jason Flora, CDC
LCDR Greg Kinnes, CDC
CDR Teresa Seitz, CDC

2. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson

CAPT Piacitelli welcomed PAC members and guests to the meeting. She reported that the PAC Chairs had met with CDR Mike Flyzik, Office of the Surgeon General (OSG) and discussed ways to facilitate correspondence with the OSG. CDR Flyzik reported to the PAC chairs that he will prepare and distribute a template for use for PAC member nomination approvals. A template would be very helpful to the PAC and CPO's. Once again the formal letters of appointment for the nominated EHOPAC members has been held up because of a request for additional information regarding PAC membership. PAC charters for all the categories are currently being reviewed by CDR Flyzik, he is noting difference between the charters and will meet with the PAC chairs to discuss these differences to determine if changes need to be made to the model charter.

3. Remarks by the Environmental Health Chief Professional Office (CPO) - CAPT Crow

CAPT Crow shared photos of 2000 EHOPAC Awards ceremony including the recipients: CAPT Gary P. Noonan (John G. Todd Award and Davis Calvin Wagner Award recipient), CDR Richard E. Turner (Edward (Ted) Moran Award recipient), and LTJG Celeste L. Davis (John C. Eason Rising Star Award recipient) as well as honoree CAPT (Ret) Eason and his wife

CAPT Crow reported that the 2001 Commissioned Officers Association meeting will be held in Washington, DC in May. CAPT Crow will represent the category in the scientific program committee meeting which will be held in the Washington, DC but requested a volunteer to coordinate the category speciality session. LT Vincent Garcia agreed to coordinate the session which is tentatively set for May 30, 2001. Currently the theme of the meeting has not yet been decided, those who may be interested in participating in the Environmental Health Officer speciality session should contact LT Vince Garcia by email: vincent.garcia@mail.ihs.gov

A review of the utilization of standard billets is underway. Diane Wright is coordinating the review, she has a lot of experience with both the Indian Health Service and the National Institutes of Health and has begun the review by looking over billets used at the Indian Health Service. Categories need to determine how they want to use the billet system, as a recruitment or career development tool. Can the billets be streamlined such as the military billets? CAPT Crow will serve as liaison between the EHOPAC and the billet review committee.

CAPT Crow encouraged all officers take note of the information provided in the September issue of the Commissioned Corp Bulletin regarding promotions. This issue has a lot of good information regarding the promotion process and how officers should maintain and review their

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personnel file.

CAPT Crow discussed some recruitment issues. He has reviewed the applicant pool and reported that there are a number excellent applicants for the Environmental Health Officer category. He has contacted various OPDIV officials who are responsible for filling vacancies and has informed them of the good prospects that are currently boarded and available to be called to active duty. CAPT Shepherd discussed the recruitment of COSTEP's. He feels that the the mentoring program has been very valuable and has facilitated recruitment efforts among COSTEP'S. The National Park Service is looking to fill a Regional Health Specialist Position in the Denver Regional Office. The position closing date is October 15, 2000. Interested officers should contact CAPT John Hanley at 202-565-1117 for additional information.

The Reserve Officers Association(ROA) is accepting nominations for the C. Everett Koop Award. Nominees must be an 04 or below and nominations must be submitted by October 31, 2000. The award will be presented at he ROA winter meeting, ROA will provide meeting registration but nominating OPDIVs are required to pay travel costs. See the September issue of the Commissioned Corp Bulletin for additional information. CAPT reported that the year 2000 recipient was awarded to Environmental Health Officer LT Kathleen Atencio. CAPT Crow reported that an Environmental Health Officer, CAPT Richard F. Barror, was named as RADM Blackwell's replacement in the office of the Surgeon General.

4. Subcommittee Reports

NOTE: Membership on EHOPAC Subcommittees is open to all members of the Environmental Health Officer category. Anyone interested in becoming active on one of the Subcommittees should contact the Subcommittee Chairperson or CAPT Piacitelli. The EHOPAC Charter/Bylaws allows for a nonmember to serve as a Co-Chair of a subcommittee. We would appreciate your interest and help to insure that the category is serving your needs. Please volunteer your time and expertise.

➤Membership Subcommittee - LCDR Williams

CAPT Piacitelli asked that the new member nominations be conducted at this time as a conference call was scheduled to allow PAC members who were not able to travel to the meeting to participate in the nominations. CDR Clint Chamberlin joined the meeting via telephone. LCDR Williams reported that both LCDR Kevin Meeks and himself were completing their first terms. Each of the EHOPAC members had been sent a ballot and the resumes of Indian Health Service officers on file who had submitted self nomination forms and were interested in being considered for serving a term on the EHOPAC. CAPT Piacitelli asked CAPT Noonan to conduct the vote, since LCDR Williams was a nominee. One vote was received by mail from one PAC member

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unable to attend the meeting, together with the officers present and via the phone a quorum was reached. Names of the two officers selected will be sent for agency approval and then for approval from the Surgeon General.

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➤Emergency Services Subcommittee -CDR Seneviratne

CAPT Piacitelli reported that a chair was needed for the emergency services subcommittee, CDR Chamberlin agreed to serve as the chair. CAPT Piacitelli recognized CDR Seneviratne for serving as the Environmental Health Officer representative for two emergency response meetings. CDR Seneviratne reported that the Commissioned Corp Readiness Force (CCRF) sponsored a training program entitled “CRATER”- Critical Reaction Aimed toward Emergency Response during the week of September 11th, 2000 at the Public Health Service Noble Training Center, located at Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama. This hands on training for emergency response was a joint venture between the PHS and the Department of Justice, and built on the Department of Justice COBRA (Chemical Ordinance Biological Radiation) training program.

CDR Seneviratne attended the CCRF Category Consultation Work Group meeting held in Rockville, MD on August 24th and 25th, 2000. He reported that Environmental Health Officers have many marketable skills for deployment. Competency was a discussion item at the meeting due to concerns on how to determine the competency of deployable officers. Attendees and PACs were asked to develop a list of skills termed qualifying indicators to address competency issues for various deployment roles. Another discussion topic was that officer skills be current. Along with identifying specific skills, mechanisms for determining competency and currency must also be identified. Clinical currency for medical categories has been defined as a minimum of 112 hours per year or 14 days per year, the workgroup decided to adopt this definition to applied to the qualifying indicators. To be considered for deployment officers must periodically log on the CCRF website and must be current in CPR. Of the 163 Environmental Health Officers registered with the CCRF data base, only 26 officers had recently logged into the system and had current training in CPR. The PAC discussed ways officers could develop and maintain competency and to keep current in their skills. CDR Chamberlin will pursue the development of a list serve for environmental health officers interested in being considered for deployment.

➤Marketing and Recruitment Subcommittee - CAPT Shepherd

CAPT Shepherd reported that the filming of the recruitment video went extremely well. Video was shot in a number of locations and interviews were conducted with a wide range of officers from COSTEP's to retiree's, representing a number of different OPDIV's, ranks and years of service. CAPT Shepherd sent letters of appreciation to all of the Environmental Health Officer's that were involved with the video. The videographer was provided a copy of Plagues and Politics to provide background information for the videotape and is currently preparing a 15 minute video

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from the 15 hours of videotape that was shot. The draft videotape will be ready for the EHOPAC to review in October. There will be 100 copies made of the video, copies will be distributed to each OPDIV.

The CD rom recruitment video can be downloaded from the website. CAPT Shepherd requested that officers submit photos to update the video and to develop an archive of photos to be stored on the website for officers to use for presentations. Please send photo's to CAPT Shepherd via email at craig.shepherd@mail.ihs.gov and include a two column table with a photo identification number and a notation regarding the photo.

CAPT Crow reported on a recruitment opportunity stemming from a meeting he held with representatives of the Schools of Public Health. They would like to call upon the expertise and experience of Environmental Health Officers to provide seminars. To facilitate matching officers with programs requesting a speaker, the EHOPAC will develop a list of officers willing to speak, their areas of expertise and their location. If enough officers are interested in this effort, a link will be developed between the EHO webpage and the association of the Schools of Public Health. Officers interested in participating should send CAPT Crow an email by November 4th and should indicate their areas of expertise.

➤ **Career Development Subcommittee - CAPT Shepherd**

The website contains career track information for careers in the Indian Health Service, the Coast Guard and ATSDR. CAPT Shepherd would like to include tracks within FDA, CDC and each of the OPDIVs. The tracks on website can be used as templates and would provide officers information for planning career moves across OPDIVs. A discussion was held regarding expanding the career information to include relevant items for civil service environmental health professionals.

CAPT Shepherd reported that DCP had developed a basic officer training class which will be held in Rockville. Officers should check the DCP website for training dates and additional information.

➤ **Awards and Recognition Subcommittee - CDR Herring**

No report was made as CDR Herring was unable to attend the meeting.

➤ **Orientation and Mentoring Subcommittee - CDR Seneviratne for LCDR Taylor**

CDR Seneviratne reported that he has been working with CDR Taylor developing a spreadsheet containing information from the protégée and mentor information forms submitted by officers

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participating in the mentoring program. Currently there are 18 mentor -protégée pairs.

➤ **Professional Image & Standards Subcommittee - CAPT Piacitelli**

CAPT Piacitelli reported that LCDR Meeks was completing his term on the EHOPAC and could no longer serve as Chair but wished to continue working on the subcommittee.. She asked for a volunteer to serve as chair. The subcommittee has been working on developing a matrix of degree programs that meet the Environmental Health Officer appointment standards. The matrix will be placed on web page and will be provided to DCP to facilitate determination of eligibility for application to the Commissioned Corp as an Environmental Officer. It was discussed that this subcommittee could also deal with credentialing issues. CAPT Piacitelli suggested that EHOPAC members interested in serving as the new chair contact LCDR Meeks for further information.

➤ **Charter and Bylaws Subcommittee - CAPT Piacitelli**

CAPT Piacitelli reported that the EHOPAC Charter had been reviewed by CDR Mike Flyzik, of the office of the Surgeon General as part of a review of all of the category charters. CDR Flyzik provided a list of discrepancies between the EHOPAC charter and the model charter. A discussion of the differences between category charters and the model charter has been proposed as an agenda item for the next PAC chair meeting. Following this discussion, appropriate changes will be made to charter as needed and the charter will be submitted for approval by the Surgeon General.

5. New Business

Webpage - LCDR Muza

LCDR Muza reported that she was now able to devote more time to the webpage due to a change in her work demands. CAPT Piacitelli suggested that a technical information subcommittee be developed to encompass the webpage as well as other information sources such as developing a Environmental Health Officer list serve. LCDR Muza agreed to serve as chair on the new subcommittee and will pursue setting up a list serve.

Article for the Commissioned Corp Bulletin

CAPT Crow reported that each of the PHS categories would be provided the opportunity to publish an article in the Commissioned Corp Bulletin to highlight category activities. Environmental Health Officers have been assigned space in the June 2001 issue. Space for an additional article was currently available, if the EHOPAC was interested. CAPT Crow suggested an article describing the June award ceremony and the new recruitment video be submitted. CAPT Shepherd agreed to prepare an article.

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Next Meeting

The 124th meeting of the USPHS EHOPAC will be held on Wednesday, December 13th, 2000, at the Indian Health Service Conference Room, 6th floor, 12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. A dinner will be held Tuesday night before the meeting, time and place to be announced.

Submission of Minutes

These minutes of the 123rd meeting of the EHOPAC have been reviewed and accepted by CAPT Piacitelli, EHOPAC Chairperson and CAPT Thomas E. Crow, Chief Environmental Health Officer, and are hereby submitted as a true and accurate account of the proceedings.

CAPT Laurie Piacitelli, M.S., CIH
EHOPAC Chairperson

CAPT Thomas E. Crow, M.S.E.H., R.S.
Chief Environmental Health Officer

EHOPAC Directory Follows

EHOPAC	USPHS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE	SEPTEMBER 2000
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Chief Professional Officer	CAPT Thomas E. Crow
EHOPAC Chairperson	CAPT Laurie A. Piacitelli
EHOPAC Vice-Chairperson	LCDR Lisa J. Flynn

FULL MEMBERSHIP LISTED BY AGENCY ALLOCATIONS				
AGENCY	MEMBER ALLOTMENT	NAME OF MEMBER	TERM (1st or 2nd)	TERM (duration)
ATSDR	1	LCDR Susan L. Muza	1st	07/99 - 06/02
CDC	2	CAPT Laurie A. Piacitelli	2nd	06/98 - 05/01
		CDR William Daniels	1st	06/00 - 05/03
EPA	1	LCDR Rhonda S. Sears	1st	03/00 - 02/03
FDA	2	LCDR Calvin Edwards	1st	07/99 - 06/02
		Ms. Glenda Lewis	1st	07/99 - 06/02
HRSA	1	CAPT Michael Herring	1st	10/98 - 09/01
IHS	6	CDR Jeffrey Smith	1st	06/00 - 05/03
		CAPT Craig A. Shepherd	1st	06/98 - 05/01
		LCDR Kelly M. Taylor	2nd	03/00 - 02/03
		LCDR Donald B. Williams	1st	12/97 - 11/00
		LT Vincent Garcia	1st	07/99 - 06/02
		VACANT		
At - Large	2	LCDR Lisa Flynn	2nd	03/00 - 02/03
		CDR Clint R. Chamberlin	1st	07/99 - 06/02
Pro-Temp	up to 5	CAPT Richard W. Durrett	N/A	01/98-12/01

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION	
CDR Clint Chamberlin (Alternate: LCDR Laura Rabb) ORA, FDA 5600 Fishers Lane HFC-60 Rockville, MD 20857 (301) 594-3588 Fax: (301) 594- 1966 Email: CChamber@ORA.FDA.GOV	
CDR William Daniels (Daniel Almaguer) NIOSH Denver Federal Center P.O. Box 25226 Denver, CO 80225-0226 (303) 844-7851 x 161 Fax: (303) 844-6282 Email: bdaniels@hrsa.gov	
CAPT Richard W. Durrett National Park Service 1100 Ohio Drive SW Washington, D.C. 20242 (202) 619-7070 Fax (202) 619- 7228 Email: richard_durrett@nps.gov	
LCDR Calvin W. Edwards (Alternate: ?) PHI-DO HRP HFR-CE1510 Harrisburg, PA 17110 (717) 541-9924 Fax (717) 541-9927 Email: CEDWARD2@ORA.FDA.GOV	
LCDR Lisa Flynn (Alternate:) Office of Emergency Preparedness 12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 360 Rockville, MD 20857 (301) 443-2967. Fax (301) 443-3219 Email lflynn@osophs.dhhs.gov	
LT Vincent Garcia (Alternate: ?) 1395 Greg St. Suite 101, Sparks, NV 89431 (702) 784-5327 Fax: (702) 784-5086 Email: vincent.garcia@mail.ihs.gov	
CAPT Michael E. Herring (Alternate: ?) HRSA-USCG, Environmental Compliance Division, Bldg 19, USCG Support Ctr, Elizabeth City, NC 27909 (252) 335-6356 Fax (252) 335-6017 Email: mherring@suprtcenecity.uscg.mil	
Ms. Glenda R. Lewis (Alternate: ?) Food and Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition Retail Food and Interstate Travel Team, 200 C St., S.W. (HFS-627) Washington, D.C. 20204 (202) 205-5718 Email: glewis@bangate.fda.gov	
LCDR Susan L. Muza (Alternate: CDR Teresa McDarmont) ATSDR Region VIII, 999 18 th St, Suite 300 Denver CO 80202 (303) 312-7011 Fax (303) 312-7018 Email: muza.susan@epa.gov	
CAPT Laurie A. Piacitelli (Alternate: Alan Echt) CDC/NIOSH B21A, 4676 Columbia Pkwy, Cincinnati, OH 45226 (513) 841-4567 Fax (513) 841- 4486 Email: LAP1@CDC.GOV	
CAPT Craig Shepherd (Alternate: LCDR Susan McCracken) Nashville Area Office, 711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Nashville, TN 37214 (615) 736-2503 Fax (615) 736-2433 Email: craig.shepherd@mail.ihs.gov	
CDR Jeffrey J. Smith (Alternate: ?) Director, Division of Environmental Services Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium 3925 Tudor Centre Drive Anchorage, Alaska 99508 (907) 729-3502 Email: jjsmith@oehe.alaska.ihs.gov	

<p>LCDR Kelly M. Taylor (Alternate: Harold Cully) Director of Environmental Health Services- Albuquerque Area 53000 Homestead Road, N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87110. (505) 248-4263 Fax (505) 248-4265 Email:k.taylor@albmail.albuquerque.ihs.gov</p>
<p>LCDR Donald B. Williams Jr. (Alternate: ?) IHS, Service Unit Sanitarian, 7900 S. J Stock Rd Tucson , AZ 85746 (520) 295-2580 Fax (520) 295-2409 Email: donald.williams@mail.ihs.go</p>

EX-OFFICO MEMBERSHIP LISTED ACCORDING TO AFFILIATION/POSITION	
AFFILIATION / ASSOCIATION	NAME OF EX-OFFICIO MEMBER
Chief Professional Officer	CAPT Thomas E. Crow
Previous Chief Professional Officer	CAPT Ralph J. Touch, Jr. (Retired)
Previous EHOPAC Chairperson	CAPT Richard Durrett
American Academy of Sanitarians	CAPT Gary Noonan
National Environmental Health Association	CAPT Bruce R. Chelikowsky
Commissioned Officers Association	CAPT Bruce R. Chelikowsky
Commissioned Corps Readiness Force	CDR Thomas Fahres (Retired)
EX OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION	
<p>CAPT Bruce R. Chelikowsky Sanitarian, DFEE, IHS, 12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 600, Rockville, MD 20852 (301) 443-1247; Fax (301) 443-5697 Email: BCHELIKO@HQE.IHS.GOV</p>	
<p>CAPT Thomas E. Crow Chief, Environmental Health, DEHE, IHS, 12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 610, Rockville, MD 20857 (301) 443-1054 Fax (301) 443-7538 Email: TCROW@HQE.IHS.GOV</p>	
<p>CDR Thomas Fahres (retired) Director, Health Services and Pastoral Care, NOAA, Ncx1, 1315 East-West Hwy, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301) 713-3440 ext 186 Fax (301) 713-1541 Email: TOM.FAHRES@NOAA.GOV</p>	
<p>CAPT Gary P. Noonan 1600 Clifton Rd., NE, E-25, Atlanta, GA 30333 (404) 639-1791; Fax (404) 639-2570 Email: GPN2@cdc.gov</p>	

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Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Subcommittees		
Subcommittee	Chairpersons	Phone Number
Awards and Recognition	CDR Michael Herring	(252) 335-6356
Career Development	CAPT Craig Shepherd	(615) 736-2503
Charter and Bylaws	CAPT Laurie Piacitelli	(404) 639-0554
Emergency Services	CDR Clint Chamberlin	(301) 443-1054
History	CAPT Thomas E. Crow	(301) 443-1054
Membership/Nominations	LCDR Don Williams	(520) 295-2580
Professional Image & Standards	vacant	
Recruitment	CAPT Craig Shepherd	(615) 736-2503
Mentoring and Orientation	CDR Kelly Taylor	(505) 248-4263